

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT DAVID B. OTTAWAY DESPATCH WASHINGTON POST FRIDAY, JULY 14, HEADED "NAMIBIA ACCORD KINDLES HOPE FOR REST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA."
2. DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA--THE AGREEMENT REACHED WEDNESDAY IN THE ANGOLAN CAPITAL OF LUANDA BETWEEN MILITANT NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS AND FIVE WESTERN POWERS REPRESENTS A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC VICTORY FOR THE WEST AND A BREAKTHROUGH IN ITS SEARCH FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS TO THE BURNING RACIAL CONFLICTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.
3. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THERE IS NOW SOME HOPE THAT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION THROUGHOUT THIS TENSE REGION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CONTINENT, SCARRED BY ESCALATING WARFARE AND DOTTED BY MASSACRES OF BLACKS AND WHITES, CAN BE HALTED AND EVEN REVERSED.

4. WITH AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIA DISPUTE NOW IN SIGHT, ONE OF THE FIRST CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCORD WILL BE TO ISOLATE FURTHER

RHODESIA'S RECALCITRANT TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND

PERHAPS FORCE IT NOW TO ATTEND A WESTERN-SPONSORED GENERAL PEACE CONFERENCE WITH ITS GUERRILLA ADVERSARIES.

5. FOR THE SOVIET UNION, THE ACCORD CAN ONLY BE A BLOW TO ITS HOPES FOR INCREASING ITS INFLUENCE IN THIS REGION THROUGH THE BACKING OF GUERRILLA WARFARE AT THE WEST'S EXPENSE, FOR IT HAS BROUGHT CLOSELY TOGETHER THE FIVE MAJOR WESTERN POWERS AND THE FIVE SO-CALLED FRONT-LINE AFRICAN STATES, INCLUDING THE TWO MARXIST ONES IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, IN A COMBINED DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE THAT HAS FINALLY BORNE FRUIT.

6. THE FRONT-LINE STATES, WHOSE CHAIRMAN IS TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS K. NYERERE, PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PRESSURING THE SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) INTO ACCEPTING THE WESTERN PLAN DESPITE SWAPO'S STRONG OBJECTIONS TO SEVERAL KEY PROVISIONS. NYERERE WAS REPORTED YESTERDAY TO BE DELIGHTED UPON HEARING OF THE AGREEMENT.

7. THE SAME FRONT-LINE APPROACH TOWARD THE NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS IN RHODESIA, PLUS INCREASED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSURE ON THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT THERE, COULD WELL NOW LEAD TO SOME PROGRESS ON THE DEADLOCKED
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BRITISH-AMERICAN PEACE PLAN FOR THAT WAR-EXHAUSTED COUNTRY, THOUGH THE SITUATION THERE REMAINS FAR MORE COMPLEX.

8. THERE IS STILL A ROCKY ROAD AHEAD IN NAMIBIA FOR THE WESTERN PLAN. SOUTH AFRICA REGARDS SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA AS AN OUTRIGHT "COMMUNIST," WHILE THE NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS ARE CONVINCED THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE OUT TO DO THEM IN AT THE ELECTIONS.

9. THE AGREEMENT IS A MAJOR PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR U.S. AMBASSADOR DONALD MCHENRY, WHO FOR 15 MONTHS HAS PRACTICED A UNIQUE STYLE OF QUIET DIPLOMACY, PERSISTING IN HIS UNTHANKED EFFORTS DESPITE MULTIPLE OBSTACLES, REPEATED SETBACKS AND DIRE THREATS FROM BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND THE NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS.

10. MCHENRY HAS SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SO-CALLED WESTERN "CONTACT GROUP" MADE UP OF THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, CANADA AND WEST GERMANY.

11. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS PROVIDE FOR UNITED NATIONS-

SUPERVISED ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN NAMIBIA AT WHICH A NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE DRAWN UP. THE ASSEMBLY WOULD ALSO PREPARE THE COUNTRY FOR ITS

INDEPENDENCE UNDER A BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

12. ABOUT 5,000 U.N. SOLDIERS AND 1,000 ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ARE TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY TO SUPERVISE THE TRANSITION PERIOD JOINTLY WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN-APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, JUSTICE MARTINUS STEYN.

13. SOUTH AFRICA IS TO WITHDRAW ALL BUT 1,500 OF ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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TROOPS NOW STATIONED IN NAMIBIA BEFORE ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND THEN THE REMAINDER ONE WEEK AFTER A U.N. CERTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS.

14. THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD INSISTED UPON THE RIGHT TO KEEP THOSE LAST 1,500 TROOPS IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA WHILE SWAPO WAS DEMANDING THAT THEY BE REMOVED TO THE FAR SOUTH. IT APPEARS THE NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS WERE FORCED TO GIVE IN TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AT LUANDA.

15. ANOTHER KEY STICKING POINT WAS THE STATUS OF NAMIBIA'S ONLY DEEP WATER PORT, WALVIS BAY, WHICH SOUTH AFRICA INSISTS IS A PART OF ITS OWN REPUBLIC HISTORICALLY AND LEGALLY. SWAPO IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCEPTED A FORMULA UNDER WHICH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS AND THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL WILL RECOGNIZE WALVIS BAY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA DESPITE THE SOUTH AFRICAN CLAIMS TO IT.

16. THE ISSUE, HOWEVER, WILL BE LEFT TO LATER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT.

17. SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN RULING THE MINERAL-RICH BUT SPARSELY INHABITED FORMER GERMAN COLONY SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR I UNDER AN OLD LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE. BUT IN 1966, THE UNITED NATIONS CEASED TO RECOGNIZE THIS MANDATE AND BEGAN DEMANDING THAT SOUTH AFRICA GIVE THE TERRITORY INDEPENDENCE.

18. AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR OF PERIODIC NEGOTIATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA AGREED TO THE WESTERN PLAN IN LATE APRIL, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT THE NAMIBIAN NATIONALIST ORGANIZATION BROKE OFF TALKS WITH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS AFTER A SOUTH AFRICAN RAID MAY 5 AT ONE OF THEIR REFUGEE AND GUERRILLA CAMPS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, IN WHICH AROUND 800 PERSONS WERE KILLED.

19. SWAPO THEN BEGAN HARDENING ITS DEMANDS TO INCLUDE A REVAMPING OF THE POLICE FORCE IN NAMIBIA AS WELL AS INSISTING ON SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF WALVIS BAY AS PART OF NAMIBIA BEFORE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND THE REMOVAL OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF NAMIBIA.

20. BUT A SUMMIT OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES IN EARLY JUNE IN LUANDA BROKE THE IMPASSE AND LED TO THEIR DECISION TO FORCE SWAPO INTO DROPPING ITS DEMANDS. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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